

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Justin Cassell on July 22, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

#### In The Claims

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). A wound dressing for covering a wound, comprising:

a discrete skin adherent and resilient [sheet-like] facing layer formed from a compound consisting of a hydrophobic silicone gel and a skin treatment agent selected from the group consisting of aloe vera and petroleum jelly, the facing layer having a plurality of preformed and uniformly shaped apertures arranged in a pattern;

wherein the [sheet-like] shape of the facing layer is defined by opposed, generally continuously planar outermost first and second surfaces, the apertures solely formed between the outermost first and second surfaces; and

wherein one of the outermost first and second surfaces of the facing layer is in a partially cured state.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended). The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of apertures [are defined] arranged in [a] the pattern vary[ing] in number per unit area according to their location relative to a center axis of the silicone gel layer.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended). The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of apertures [are defined] arranged in [a] the pattern vary[ing] in size according to their location relative to a center axis of the silicone gel layer.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended). A wound dressing for covering a wound, comprising:

a discrete skin adherent and resilient [sheet-like] facing layer formed from a compound consisting of a hydrophobic silicone gel, the facing layer having a plurality of preformed apertures arranged in a and non-apertured regions of the facing layer consisting of the silicone gel;

wherein the [sheet-like] shape of the facing layer is defined by opposed, generally continuously planar outermost first and second surfaces, the apertures solely formed between the outermost surfaces; and

wherein one of the outermost first and second surfaces is in a partially cured state.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kim M. Lewis whose telephone number is (571) 272-

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4796. The examiner can normally be reached on Wednesday to Friday, from 5:30 am to 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patricia Bianco, can be reached on (571) 272-4940. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Kim M. Lewis/  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3772

kml  
July 22, 2008